



Billing Code 3410-DM-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2012-0033]

Codex Alimentarius Commission: Meeting of the Codex

Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

AGENCY: Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety,
USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), are sponsoring a public meeting on August 30, 2012. The objective of the public meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft United States (U.S.) positions that will be discussed at the 17th Session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex), which will be held in Mexico City, Mexico on September 3-7, 2012. The Under Secretary for Food Safety and AMS recognize the importance of providing interested parties the opportunity to obtain background information on the 17th Session of the CCFFV and to address items on the agenda.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for August 30, 2012, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at USDA, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 2068, Washington, DC 20250.

Documents related to the 17th session of the CCFFV will be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address: <http://www.codexalimentarius.org/>.

Dorian Lafond, U.S. Delegate to the 17th session of the CCFFV, invites U.S. interested parties to submit their comments electronically to the following e-mail address: dorian.lafond@usda.gov.

CALL-IN NUMBER:

If you wish to participate in the public meeting for the 17th session of the CCFFV by conference call, please use the call-in number and participant code listed below:

Call-in Number: 1-888-858-2144

Participant code: 6208658

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE 17th SESSION OF THE CCFFV CONTACT: Dorian Lafond, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruits and Vegetables Division, Stop 0235, Room 2086, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue SW,

Washington, DC 20250-0235, Telephone: (202) 690-4944,

Fax: (202) 720-0016, E-mail: dorian.lafond@usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING CONTACT:

Kenneth Lowery, U.S. Codex Office, 1400 Independence Avenue
SW, Room 4861, Washington, DC 20250. Phone: +1(202)690-
4042, Fax: +1(202)720-3157, E-mail:

Kenneth.Lowery@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Codex was established in 1963 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to protect the health of consumers and ensure fair practices in the food trade.

The CCFFV is responsible for: elaborating worldwide standards and codes of practice as may be appropriate for fresh fruits and vegetables; consulting with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards in the elaboration of worldwide standards and codes of practice with

particular regard to ensuring that there is no duplication of standards or codes of practice and that they follow the same broad format; consulting, as necessary with other international organizations which are active in the area of standardization of fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Committee is hosted by Mexico.

Issues to be Discussed at the Public Meeting

The following items on the agenda for the 17th session of the CCFFV will be discussed during the public meeting:

- Matters arising from Codex and other Codex committees
- Matters arising from other international organizations on the standardization of fresh fruits and vegetables
- UNECE standards for fresh fruits and vegetables
- UNECE standard for avocado
- UNECE layout for standards on fresh fruits and vegetables
- Draft standard for avocado (revision of Codex standard 197-1995) at step 7
- Maturity requirements: methods of analysis for the determination of dry matter content (section 9) (draft standard for avocado)

- Provisions concerning quality tolerances-allowances of tolerances for decay and/or internal breakdown
(section 4.1) (draft standard for avocado)
- Draft provisions for uniformity rules and other size related provisions at step 7 (sections 5.1 and 6.2.4)
(draft standard for avocado)
- Draft standard for pomegranate at step 7
- Proposed draft provisions for sizing and uniformity rules at step 4 (sections 3 and 5.1) (draft standard for pomegranate)
- Proposed draft standard for golden passion fruit at step 4
- Proposed draft standard for durian at step 4
- Proposals for new work on Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables
- Proposed layout for Codex standards for fresh fruits and vegetables
- Revision of the terms of reference of the committee on fresh fruits and vegetables

Each issue listed will be fully described in documents distributed, or to be distributed, by the Secretariat prior

to the meeting. Members of the public may access copies of these documents (see ADDRESSES).

Public Meeting

At the August 30, 2012, public meeting, draft U.S. positions on the agenda items will be described and discussed, and attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Written comments may be offered at the meeting or sent to the U.S. Delegate for the 17th session of the CCFFV, Dorian Lafond (see ADDRESSES). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 17th session of the CCFFV.

Additional Public Notification

FSIS will announce this notice online through the FSIS Web page located at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_and_policies/Federal_Register_Notices/index.asp.

FSIS will also make copies of this Federal Register publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, Federal Register notices, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to

constituents and stakeholders. The Update is communicated via Listserv, a free electronic mail subscription service for industry, trade groups, consumer interest groups, health professionals, and other individuals who have asked to be included. The Update is also available on the FSIS Web page. In addition, FSIS offers an electronic mail subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News & Events/Email Subscription/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News%20&%20Events/Email%20Subscription/).

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Done at Washington, DC on: July 18, 2012

Karen Stuck,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

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